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16 July 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT: Public Health - P.L. 658 - 79th Congress

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You brought to our attention the report of the House Committee on Civil Service, beginning on page 1444 of the U.S. Code, Congressional Service, 79th Congress, 2nd Session 1946.

This report, on page 1448, specifies that responsibility for health services would be centered in the Civil Service Commission. This House report [No. 516] was made in connection with HR-2716 which was the original House Bill introduced in the 78th Congress. It was re-introduced in the 79th Congress and passed by large majority in the House with provision for Civil Service as the responsible agent. On reaching the Senate, the Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Civil Service, and Public Health objected strongly to control by Civil Service. After hearings, the Senate Committee on Civil Service agreed with Public Health and introduced the bill on the floor of the Senate in its present form which specifies only that the recommendations of Public Health be obtained but need not necessarily be followed. The compromise or substitute was discussed with the Chairman of the House Committee on Civil Service who concurred in placing the coordinating duties on Public Health as the proper medical agent of the Government. Public Health therefore, is the initial clearance and they coordinate closely with the Bureau of the Budget, but no clearance need be obtained from the Civil Service Commission.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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